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# Socio-structural and Cultural Determinants of Emotional Abuse of Children in Families in Rural Areas

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## Summary

Emotional abuse against a child in the family can negatively affect his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral, as well as social development. The purpose of this paper is to analyze socio-structural and cultural determinants of emotional abuse against children in rural areas, given that these groups of determinants differ in the conditions under which urban and rural abuse is more or less likely to occur. Different behaviors can be classified under emotional abuse – rejection, degradation, intimidation, different discriminatory practices, and certainly denial of emotional response. The methods of theoretical content analysis with basic methods of concretization and specialization, normative, comparative method, as well as basic quantitative analysis of tabulated data are applied in this paper. The expected results of the research should give a clearer picture of the differences in socio-structural and cultural treatment of activities that can be considered emotional abuse against children in rural areas, compared to urban areas. It is also interesting to analyze comparative data on the prevalence of emotional abuse against children in families in the Balkan region. Comparing the experiences of urban and rural areas, this paper contributes to a clearer picture of the conditionality of emotional abuse against children in rural areas and makes overarching recommendations to prevent the basic socio-structural and cultural determinants and factors in this domain.

*Keywords:* Emotional abuse, children, socio-structural determinants, cultural determinants, rural areas.

## **Socio-structural and Cultural Determinants of Emotional Abuse of Children in Families in Rural Areas**

### **Introduction**

Family as a basic social unit has considerable effect on the development and shaping of personality of each individual. If the primary family is healthy and functional, it will, through affective attachment of its members, mutual support and respect, have the effect of preventing the occurrence of any form of deviant behavior.

The first social environment in which an individual finds themselves is the family, which as such has a primary influence on personality development, and lays the fundamental groundwork for an individual's further development. It is in the family that we acquire our first experiences of people and interpersonal relations, and of life in general. In addition, in the family a child gains the basic impressions about themselves and their personal value, their position both in the family surroundings, and in the wider social community. Those first family experiences are crucial, because through them a person forms their attitudes towards themselves and life in general, building a value system which will form the basis of actions they take later in life.

Namely, each individual's socialization and the shaping of their personality begin in their family as soon as they are born. Even the prenatal phase (the effect of the mother's emotional state, wanting the child) is very often emphasized as an important factor for the further development of the family dynamics and family relations, and in turn for the development of personality.

From the earliest age, a child passes through the identification phase. In their identification, children unconsciously take adults as models, identify with them and view their actions and patterns of behavior as an adequate exemplar. Besides identification, a child also passes through the generalization phase, i.e. on the basis of individual experiences and relations of family members towards them, they draw general conclusions, which later on, as an adopted pattern of behavior, they transfer to other people they come into contact with.

The most important affective factor which influences a child's personality is a feeling of safety, a feeling they are loved and accepted by the parents who take care of them. The aforesaid indicates that the focus is not on the parents' individual decisions, but on their overall behavior and a general atmosphere in the family. It is natural that insufficient care of the child and love deprivation would lead to the development of traits such as withdrawal and passivity, or animosity towards the people surrounding us, or even aggressiveness. On the other hand, excessive lenience towards the child, as well as giving them too much freedom without supervision, can also produce negative consequences to personal development. To this we might certainly add inconsistency in the parents' behavior, especially when applying the reward and punishment principle in response to the child's behavior, so that we could say that this kind of parental attitude may have negative psychological implications for the child's further development. It is noteworthy that the presence of the internet among children hailing from rural regions is as prevalent as among their urban counterparts. Consequently, they are subject to commensurate exposure to various manifestations of digital violence and criminal activities. This phenomenon poses a distinct challenge within the context of child development (see more: Bjelajac & Filipović, 2020; Bjelajac & Filipović, 2021a; Bjelajac & Filipović, 2021b), that need to be protected not only in the real world but also in the increasingly dangerous "virtual world" (see more: Bjelajac, Matijašević & Dimitrijević, 2012).

The topic of this paper is an analysis of socio-structural and cultural determinants of emotional abuse of children, while focusing in particular on the prominence and dynamics of this form of family pathology in rural areas. It should be noted at the very beginning that any form of violence in the family against children is a "universal social problem in all countries, regardless of the degree of economic and social development" (Jovanović, 2014, p. 3).

In other words, violence against children is not a new phenomenon. Violence against children is "a historically known phenomenon, which is as old as human civilization. And a specific aspect of a child's status are their dependence and helplessness which make them susceptible to different forms of violence" (Mošković, 2014,

p. 34). In this context, Ljubojev (2008, p. 82) points out that the phenomena of abuse and neglect of children in the family "represent blatant examples of infringement and violation of their rights". On the other hand, notwithstanding the historical context of genesis of violence against children, and the fact that the phenomenon of child abuse and neglect is "the most prominent manifestation of compromising a child's wellbeing and right to good health and development, only in the last few years have experts and the general public in Serbia been discussing it as a social problem" (Žegarac, 2004, p. 1). Violence against children is nowadays viewed as a chain of "inhuman relations, ranging from disregard – inadequate care for a child's developmental needs and personality, through neglect – absence or limited possibilities of satisfaction of the developmental and basic needs and social safety of a child, to abuse – compromising the mental and physical integrity of a child's personality, and attacks on their individuality and distinctiveness" (Milosavljević, 1998, p. 21).

In view of the topic of the paper, we applied the methods of theoretical content analysis along with the basic methods of concretization and specialization, the normative, comparative method, as well as a basic quantitative analysis of tabulated data. The expected research results should give a clear idea of the differences in the socio-structural and cultural treatment of activities which belong in the domain of emotional abuse of children in families in rural areas, compared to urban areas. In addition, it is interesting to analyze the comparative data on the presence of emotional abuse of children in families in the Balkan region. By comparing experiences from urban and rural areas, the paper contributes to clarifying the picture of the causes of emotional abuse of children in families in rural areas, and gives general recommendations with the aim of preventing the basic socio-structural and cultural determinants and factors in this domain.

## **The definition and models of domestic abuse of children**

According to provisions of the Family Law of the Republic of Serbia (National Assembly, 2005, art. 6), "everyone is obliged to comply with the child's best interest in all activities concerning the child". Article 60 stipulates that a child "has the right to live with their

parents and the right to be cared for by parents before all others". Furthermore, a child is entitled "to the provision of the best possible living and health conditions for their proper and complete development" (National Assembly, 2005, art. 62).

The causes of domestic violence, according to Bošković (2010, p. 127), "are multifactorial. Social issues and cultural factors of heredity influence the social awareness in which domestic violence becomes a daily occurrence, which is tolerated by customs and institutions alike".

There are in contemporary theory several definitions of violent behavior towards children. The term "abused child" is defined by Radovanović (1988, p. 99) as a child "whose normal growth and development are prevented and threatened". According to Hirjan and Singer (1978), an abusive relationship is, as a rule, an objective expression of a certain psychological relationship and attitude towards the child. Ljubojev (2008, p. 84) points out that violence against a child exists when "a parent, by using physical strength or a more powerful position, treats the child maliciously, threatening their life, health, or physical and emotional development. We could say as a result that this is a form of "non-parental" treatment of the child". According to Konstantinović-Vilić et al. (2009, p. 132), "domestic violence is suffered by any child whose normal growth and development are threatened and prevented, a physically abused child, a child whose physical and psychological needs are grossly neglected".

Theory differentiates between actual and potential harming of a child.

According to Išpanović-Radojković and Žegarac (2011, p. 16), "actual harming occurs when a child suffers physical, cognitive, emotional and/or developmental damage, even when evidence of such damage cannot be found at the moment of the event of abuse or neglect". The same authors also state that "potential harming refers to the danger of harming a child which could occur as a result of absence of supervision or corresponding child protection in an environment dangerous or developmentally unsuitable for them" (Išpanović-Radojković & Žegarac, 2011, p. 16).

The emotional effect of a situation should be considered separately from the physical outcome – “exposure to risk once or more times can have significant consequences for the child’s emotional wellbeing or development. It is not always easy in practice to differentiate between the consequences of actually and potentially harming a child” (Išpanović-Radojković & Žegarac, 2011, p. 16).

Domestic violence against children is manifested through the forms of physical, sexual and emotional violence, i.e. abuse. A specific form of violence which should also be mentioned is child neglect. Under this subtitle, we will briefly describe physical and sexual violence, as well as neglect, while a more detailed theoretical analysis of emotional violence will be the subject of the next subsection.

Namely, physical violence against a child is what leads to actual or potential physical harm to the child. According to Ljubojević (2008, p. 87), “physical child abuse in the family implies physical actions by parents or guardians, which intentionally, by applying physical force, with or without the use of other means, cause, or may cause physical injuries or death of the child”.

The most common forms of physical violence against children are: “hitting by hands and legs, hair pulling, hitting with a belt, stick, cord and similar objects, kicking, biting, throwing, twisting body or face parts, injuring by sharp or blunt objects, strangling, burning (with a cigarette, a match), inflicting burns by hot water, etc. However, physical violence also implies physical acts such as: tying, locking, or closing in a dark room, closing in a wardrobe, total restriction of movement, etc” (Ljubojević, 2008, p. 87).

A physical injury may also be inflicted on a child by a parent or guardian deliberately causing symptoms of a disease to develop in the child. These situations are usually called induced diseases, or Munchausen by proxy syndrome (Schreier, 2002). In these situations, “the clinical features are often unusual, which makes diagnosis more difficult. It is characteristic for the symptoms to occur only in periods when the adult person taking care of the child has access to the child, and never in situations when other persons take care of the child” (Parnell, 2002, p. 132).

From the point of view of comparative-cultural research, sexual abuse can be defined as "...prohibited sexual contact between an adult and a sexually immature child for the purpose of satisfying the adult's sexual needs, or for acquiring economic benefits through child prostitution and pornography" (Conte, 1994, p. 225). According to Ljubojević (2008, p. 88), "sexual abuse of a child implies attempts at, or performance of sexual intercourse, as well as other forms of activities with a child, which are carried out for sexual purposes, with the use of force or without it".

Victims of sexual abuse are children of both sexes and all ages, from a few months old babies to adulthood, most often between 7 and 13 years of age. Some authors emphasize that the number of abused children younger than 6 is underestimated, because children below this age rarely reveal the abuse, and later on, in adulthood, forget about the incidents (Finkelhor, 1994). According to some authors, even though sexual abuse of children is possible and happens at all ages, the usual beginning is between the fourth and eighth years of life, or in adolescence (Berliner & Eliot, 2002).

According to Žegarac (2004, p. 31), "in comparison with girls, boys experience abuse at a later age, and it is more likely that they will be abused by an unknown person".

As opposed to the aforesaid, neglect is one of the most widespread individually defined forms of violence against children. According to Konstantinović-Vilić et al. (2009, p. 132), "neglect implies disregard of the child's medical, financial, educational, emotional and developmental needs".

Žegarac (2004, p. 45) points out that a general definition of neglect can be that "neglect implies a lasting disregard of the child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, which may result in severe damage to their health and development. It implies the parents' or guardians failure to provide adequate food, housing and clothes, failure in protecting the child from physical injuries or dangers, as well as failure to provide appropriate medical care or treatment. Neglect also includes disregard of the child's basic emotional and educational needs, as well as child abandonment".

Neglect may be obvious, but may also be almost invisible, which may result in years of poor relations with the child with drastically bad

consequences. Theory distinguishes between eight basic forms of child neglect: physical neglect, educational neglect, health neglect, emotional neglect, neglect in upbringing, exploitation, inadequate supervision, and abandonment.

### **Domestic emotional violence against children**

Within the family, a child may be "an object and a witness of violence, either directly or indirectly. In this situation, they are exposed to psychological torture and suffer stress. Through violence, the child does not only get used to pain and suffering in the family, but also learns to be violent. Continuous stress in children creates suitable conditions for them to develop into a person inclined to the use of force and conflict" (Bošković, 2010, p. 130).

There is in contemporary theory no uniform agreement and definition of the term of emotional violence against children. According to Ljubojević (2008, p. 89). "emotional violence against a child implies acts and failures to act by parents or guardians, such as rejection, insult, isolation, terrorizing, verbal abuse etc., which can cause severe and lasting disorders in the child's emotional development". According to Žegarac (2004, p. 37), "most definitions regard emotional violence as repeated forms of behavior which develop in the child the feeling they are worthless, unloved, unwanted, and only valued when serving the needs of others, or through serious intimidation which combines psychological and physical violence".

It should be noted that in emotional violence, injuries are not physically visible, but the consequences may be more severe than in any other kind of violence and abuse. Emotional violence is defined with regard to certain types of parental behavior: "1.) "rejection and degradation; 2.) intimidation; 3.) isolation; 4.) emotional exploitation and spoiling – modeling, tolerating or encouraging antisocial behavior or developmentally inappropriate behavior; 5.) coercion or encouragement of a loss of developmentally adequate personal autonomy through extreme involvement, ubiquity and/or dominance, total control of the child's life and restriction of their cognitive development; 6.) ignoring; 7.) disregard of the child's mental health and specific educational needs" (Žegarac, 2004, p. 39).

## **The determinants which contribute to the occurrence of emotional violence against children – a comparative analysis of rural and urban areas**

The principal causes of domestic violence "stem from etiological bases provided through social factors and the distinct area of family factors of delinquency" (Bošković, 2010, p. 127).

Socio-structural, and cultural determinants within them, affect the likelihood of occurrence of any kind of violence against children. The occurrence of violence against children is "traditionally placed in the context of low socioeconomic status of families, and includes a wide range of factors related to poverty such as unemployment, limited educational status, a large number of children in the family, etc. Research, however, suggests that sexual and emotional violence display specific features in this respect, as they are not related to the socioeconomic status to the same extent as physical violence and neglect" (Žegarac, 2004, p. 63). It is a fact that violence against children "occurs more often in families which are known for criminal activities, prostitution, alcoholism, or some other, externally noticeable forms of domestic deviations. However, violence also exists in apparently "happy" urban families, which makes its detection more difficult. It would therefore be wrong to consider violence against children characteristic of the alcoholic population and other marginal groups, although their primarily detected deviation is transparent, which makes this disorder easier to detect" (Ljubojević, 2008, p. 86).

The determinants refer to "the factors at the institutional and structural levels which create conditions in which it is more or less likely for violence to occur" (Unicef, 2017a, p. 4). In the context of this topic, we can distinguish the structural determinants, which in a wider framework include all the relevant social and cultural factors. According to Unicef's (2017a, p. 4) classification, structural determinants include the following determinants: "1.) economic underdevelopment is considered an important precursor of violence against children on an international scale; 2.) social exclusion, poverty and inequality are forms of indirect, structural violence, but they also lead to interpersonal violence in various ways; 3.) wars and social conflicts represent forms of violence which affect children living in war-torn

areas, but they are also precursors which contribute to other forms of violence, even long after the conflicts are over; 4.) migrations, in particular if forced and badly organized, increase the risk of different forms of violence against children, especially when not accompanied by adults; 5.) gender regimes based on asymmetric power distribution and rooted in patriarchal values provide grounds for gender-motivated violence, and domestic violence against women and children; 6.) cultural factors appear in different forms: as a high level of tolerance to violence as a result of wars, crises, and social unrest; as discriminatory attitudes towards minorities; and as norms and values relating to gender-based roles and relations; 7.) digitalization, the development of information and communication technologies, the Internet and social networks are related to new forms of violence against children – new technologies are used as violence instruments; 8.) discriminatory attitudes towards children with developmental challenges and/or disabilities are more widespread in rural than in urban areas. While 40% of the subjects in urban areas in the Multiple Indicator Survey expressed positive attitudes towards children with physical and intellectual challenges, in rural areas such positive attitudes were recorded in 30% of the subjects; 9.) a higher rate of child marriages was recorded in rural areas, in the poorest households, as well as in households with the highest number of members. With regard to women living in Roma communities (20-49 years of age), 17% of them were married before the age of fifteen, and 57% before they were 18. In the general population, the frequency of child marriages is much lower (0.8% before the age of 15 and 6.8% before 18); 10.) a massive inflow of refugees and migrants during 2015, mainly from Syria, and from Iraq and Afghanistan as well" (Unicef, 2017a, p. 4).

According to the research of the Centre for Child Rights, „children with developmental challenges are particularly exposed to the risk of violence. One of the first investigations into occurrence of violence against children conducted in the Republic of Serbia related in particular to children with developmental challenges. According to the data obtained from surveying children in 11 facilities for children with developmental impairments: 62% of the children witnessed violence of the staff against children (8% very often, or 3% on a daily

basis); the most frequent forms of violence were insulting the child with swear words (43%) and keeping silent and deliberately ignoring the child (42%)"(Petrović, 2016, p. 8).

It should also be emphasized that the broader socioeconomic conditions are often left out of literature on violence against children. The focus is more often on the broader cultural, than on socioeconomic conditions. According to a UNICEF study, "there are in Serbia many studies on different forms of structural violence against children. They include studies on the poverty and material deprivation of children, on social exclusion and inadequate availability of resources (e.g. housing) and social services (education, health care, extracurricular activities, etc.) – especially among children from rural areas, minorities (Roma children), and the migrant population (refugees and internally displaced persons)" (Unicef, 2017b, p. 48).

The economic and social determinants on the macro-plane, which are taken into account in studies on violence against children in different contexts, include: the effects of economic development, the effects of war and social conflicts, the effects of regional differences defined by the degree of urbanization, the effects of polydimensional social exclusion (Unicef, 2017b, p. 48). In this context we should also mention the cultural determinants, the importance of which is extremely great. The main cultural determinants on the macro-plane taken into account in studies on violence against children are: "high tolerance to violence as a consequence of wars, crisis and social unrest, also including the role of the media in the "normalization" of violence; discriminatory attitudes towards minorities, especially children from the Roma population; and the norms, values and attitudes related to gender roles and relations" ( Unicef, 2017b, p. 49).

It is interesting to mention the cultural determinants and factors at the meso-plane, which are significantly influenced by specific sets of norms, values and attitudes referring to the children's upbringing practices and legitimate decisions regarding child discipline, as well as the norms, values and attitudes related to specific forms of violence or specific contexts in which violence is manifested. These determinants and factors include: "attitudes to violence against children, the legitimacy of violent disciplinary methods and upbringing methods; awareness and attitudes related to sexual violence and exploitation;

and the norms and values which create a specific institutional culture, e.g. "school culture/atmosphere" in relation to violence" (Unicef, 2017b, p. 52).

## **Research methodology and sources**

The subject of analysis in the research part of the paper is the analysis of incidence of emotional violence against children up to 14 years of age by comparing the indicators for the general and Roma populations, an analysis of the incidence of emotional violence against children up to 14 years of age according to the living area (the rural - urban area relation), and a comparative review for the year 2017 of the rates of prevalence of experienced emotional violence by comparing several selected European countries, including an overview of the percentual presentation of the number of children who reported to have experienced at least one instance of behavior which is classified as emotional violence in their whole life, by gender and country. In addition, the subject of analysis in the paper is the share of the number of adults reported in 2019 and 2020 for the criminal acts of Neglect and Abuse of a Minor and Domestic Violence, in the total criminality.

The research part of the paper is methodologically based on the quantitative analysis of statistical indicators of previously reported data. The research is based on the available data of Unicef in Serbia, and on the official statistical data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

## **Research results and discussion**

The last Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey – MICS, which was conducted in Serbia on a national sample and a sample of the population of Roma settlements "reveals a high extent of psychological aggression as part of the disciplinary practice. The findings indicate that younger children (2-4 years of age) are exposed to psychological aggression more often than older children (5-14 years of age), children living in Roma communities are more so than children in the general population, and children from urban areas more often than children from rural settings" (Unicef, 2017a, p. 6). The Table 1 and Table 2 will present the data relating to the percentage of children (the general

population and the Roma settlements) from 1 to 14 years of age exposed to psychological aggression in the year 2014, as well as the data which refers to the percentage of children aged 1 to 14 exposed to psychological aggression by living areas in Serbia, also for 2014.

Furthermore, the Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect BECAN established that "the prevalence rate of experienced psychological violence ranges from approximately 65% in Macedonia to 84% in Greece. The prevalence rate among young women in Serbia is 71%, and 66% among young men. The findings of their study entitled "Adverse Childhood Experiences among University Students in Serbia" indicated that more than one third of the subjects (36.7%) were exposed to psychological abuse at least once or two times in their lives, with the prevalence rate being considerably higher for young men, compared to young women (20% compared to 15.6%). Psychological neglect was identified in 15.7% of the subjects, while the prevalence rate was higher in young women than in young men (16.3% compared to 14.7%), and in subjects from rural, as opposed to subjects from urban areas (18.2% compared to 14.6%)" (Unicef, 2017a, p. 6).

The Table 3 presents comparative percentages for children for the year 2017, who reported to have experienced at least one instance of behavior which is classified as psychological violence during their lives, by gender and country.

Given that one study refers to the share of the number of adults reported in 2019 and 2020 for the criminal acts of Neglect and Abuse of a Minor and Domestic Violence, in the total criminality figures, we should add a few notes on the criminal-law treatment of violence against children in Serbia, which essentially includes a form of emotional violence.

Namely, criminal-law protection of marriage and the family is the *ultima ratio* of ensuring the fulfillment of family obligations. The Criminal law reaction is the most serious reaction to violation of certain family-law rules. According to Žegarac et al. (2017, p. 74), "violations of childrens' rights which are qualified as abuse or neglect may be classified according to various criteria: those punishable by criminal law regulations and those subject to family law sanctions or interventions by social services; violations committed by acting, or

those resulting from failure to act, i.e. inaction; violations committed by parents, persons entrusted with the care of the child, third parties, or institutions. The kind and extent of the legal reaction is partly dependent on the extent to which a specific behavior threatens or violates the child's essential wellbeing".

The Criminal Code of Serbia (National Assembly, 2011) in one of its parts in chapter nineteen, which relates to criminal acts against marriage and the family, defines two criminal acts the description of which includes violence against children. Those are the criminal act of Neglect and Abuse of a Minor (article 193 of the Criminal Code) and the criminal act of Domestic Violence (article 194 of the Criminal Code).

In the table 4 we analysed the comparative data for 2019 and 2020, while the data compared refers to the total criminality, the quantitative indicators relating to the group of criminal acts against marriage and the family, and in the end an analysis of the presence of individual characteristic criminal acts in this area. Analyzing total criminality at the Republic of Serbia level, we can notice that the scope of committed criminal acts was reduced by almost 20% in 2020. With regard to the numeric indicators of adults reported for the group of criminal acts against marriage and the family, total values show that there were significantly fewer criminal complaints filed in 2020. With respect to individual criminal acts, it is noticeable that the largest number of criminal complaints in both years were filed for the criminal act of Domestic Violence, while it should be noted again that the number of complaints in 2020 is far lower than in 2019.

What is somewhat surprising is the small number of adults reported for the criminal act of Neglect and Abuse of a Minor, in view of the attitudes of domestic and foreign authors alike on the significance and incidence of this form of family pathology. Modest numerical indicators may suggest that this criminal act is concealed by the victim and/or family member(s), that the local customs and cultural development and awareness of individuals are still at a low level, and that an approximately realistic number of this and similar kinds of criminal acts is hard to determine.

## Conclusion

When analyzing the determinants which contribute to the occurrence of emotional violence against children, the socio-structural and cultural determinants take center stage. The institutional determinants (legislation and policies regarding accommodation of children in residential facilities, the mechanisms for detection of cases of violence and referral for further procedure, intersectoral coordination, professional and support provider capacities, etc.) are analyzed to a smaller extent in literature, taking into account the investigation into this phenomenon on macro- and micro-levels, while on the meso-level (regions or local communities) institutional determinants are even prioritized in analysis compared to the socio-structural and cultural determinants.

The effects of the urbanization degree in specific areas are rarely analyzed and described. The last Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in Serbia on a national sample and a sample of Roma settlement population was conducted in 2014. The research in terms of differences between urban and rural communities is mainly based on analyzing cultural factors (violence tolerance degree, entrenched attitudes towards norms and values associated with gender roles and relations) and socio-economic factors (employment opportunities, living standards, education, etc.). According to available research, children from urban areas are more often exposed to emotional violence (41%) compared to children from rural areas (36%).

What can certainly be defined as a gap in research into the experiences from urban and rural areas in terms of the scope and dynamics of incidence of emotional violence against children, is the absence of continuous and precise research which would enable a better contextualization and understanding in this domain, which would in turn make possible a concretization of some overarching recommendations with the aim of preventing the factors and determinants of occurrence of emotional violence against children.

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## Attachment

**Table 1**

The percentage of children aged 1–14 exposed to psychological aggression — the general population and Roma settlements, year 2014

Source: Unicef, 2017a, p. 6

<b>Age</b>	<b>General population</b>		<b>Roma settlements</b>	
	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b>2-4</b>	43%	43%	60%	69%
<b>5-14</b>	38%	40%	64%	68%

**Table 2**

The percentage of children aged 1–14 exposed to psychological aggression – by living areas, Serbia, year 2014

Source: Unicef, 2017a, p. 6

## Living area

<b>Urban</b>	41%
<b>Rural</b>	36%

**Table 3**

The percentages of children who reported to have experienced at least one instance of behavior which is classified as psychological violence during their lives – a comparative overview

Source: Unicef, 2017a, p. 6

<b>Country</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b>Greece</b>	84%	83%
<b>Romania</b>	77%	77%
<b>Croatia</b>	74%	73%
<b>Bosnia i Herzegovina</b>	73%	72%
<b>Albania</b>	71%	67%
<b>Serbia</b>	71%	66%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	69%	70%
<b>Macedonia</b>	64%	66%

**Table 4**

The share of the number of adults reported in 2019 and 2020 for the criminal acts of Neglect and Abuse of a Minor and Domestic Violence, in the total criminality

Source: Republican Bureau of Statistics, 2021: 3-4; Republican Bureau of Statistics, 2020: 3-4

<b>Criminal act</b>	<b>Adults reported in 2020</b>	<b>Adults reported in 2019</b>
<b>TOTAL – all criminal acts</b>	74,394	92,797
<b>Criminal acts against marriage and the family</b>	8,207	10,063
<b>Neglect and abuse of a minor</b>	117	119
<b>Domestic violence</b>	5,932	7,308

## **Socio-strukturne i kulturološke determinante emocionalnog nasilja u porodici nad decom u ruralnim sredinama**

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### **Sažetak**

Emocionalno nasilje nad detetom u porodici može negativno da se reflektuje na njegov fizički, mentalni, duhovni, moralni, kao i društveni razvoj. Svrha rada je analiza socio-strukturnih i kulturoloških determinanti emocionalnog nasilja nad decom u ruralnim sredinama, imajući u vidu da se upravo po ovim grupama determinanti razlikuju uslovi pod kojima je manje ili više verovatno da će doći do nasilja u urbanim i ruralnim sredinama. Različiti načini ponašanja se mogu podvesti pod emocionalno nasilje – odbacivanje, degradiranje, zastrašivanje, različiti diskriminatorski postupci, a svakako i uskraćivanje emocionalnog odgovora. U radu su primenjeni metodi teorijske analize sadržaja uz osnovne metode konkretizacije i specijalizacije, normativni, komparativni metod, kao i osnovna kvantitativna analiza tabelarno prikazanih podataka. Očekivani rezultati istraživanja treba da daju jasnu sliku o razlikama u socio-struktturnom i kulturološkom tretmanu aktivnosti koje spadaju u domen emocionalnog nasilja nad decom u porodici u ruralnim sredinama, u odnosu na urbane sredine. Takođe, zanimljivo je analizirati komparativne podatke o zastupljenosti emocionalnog nasilja nad decom u porodici na prostoru Balkana. Poredeći iskustva urbanih i ruralnih sredina, rad doprinosi sticanju jasnije slike o uslovljenosti emocionalnog nasilja nad decom u porodici u ruralnim sredinama, te daje načelne preporuke u cilju preveniranja osnovnih socio-strukturnih i kulturoloških determinanti i faktora u ovom domenu.

*Ključne reči:* emocionalno nasilje, deca, socio-strukturne determinante, kulturološke determinante, ruralna sredina, prevencija.